

To: CN=Marianne Holsman/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]

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From: CN=Phil North/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US

Sent: Mon 2/28/2011 11:56:19 PM

Subject: Fw: Rick Halford on the Pebble Mine

[Dan Chay](#)

[Heidi Chay](#)

[Freya Kai Chay](#)

[Maya Don Chay](#)

[Phil North](#)

http://www.newsminer.com/view/full_story/11681367/article-Pebble-Mine-is-far-too-risky--Size--place-and-sulfur-make-the-mining-unwise

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[Fairbanks Daily News-Miner - Pebble Mine is far too risky Size place and sulfur make the mining unwise](#)

----- Forwarded by Phil North/R10/USEPA/US on 02/28/2011 02:55 PM -----

From: "Phil and Amanda" <panorth@epa.gov> Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

To: Phil North/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 02/27/2011 08:59 PM

Subject: Fw: Rick Halford on the Pebble Mine

----- Original Message -----

From: Dan Chay

To: Heidi Chay ; Freya Kai Chay ; Maya Don Chay ; Phil North

Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 5:07 PM

Subject: Rick Halford on the Pebble Mine

[This one surprised me. -- Dan]

http://www.newsminer.com/view/full_story/11681367/article-Pebble-Mine-is-far-too-risky--Size--place-and-sulfur-make-the-mining-unwise

Pebble Mine is far too risky: Size, place and sulfur make the mining unwise

by Rick Halford, Community Perspective

Feb 27, 2011 | 360 views | 1 | 2 |

Community Perspective

For years, Alaskans — myself included — have objected to federal intervention in our state. Politicians who live in the Lower 48, many in areas that are polluted beyond repair, do little to protect their own environment because of short-term economic consequences. The lockup of even a small directional drilling pad in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge while allowing Gulf drilling in waters a mile deep seems ridiculous to us. Alaska has been, and probably will always be, a place of national conscience — often of guilty conscience for all the mistakes of the Lower 48 dealing with land, waters, resources and Native Americans.

While I have worked with or for mining interests as a participant, air taxi operator and in public service all of my adult life, learning about the Pebble prospect has stretched my comfort zone. I cannot support this mine in this place.

No, I did not fall and hit my head. I still enjoy my heavy equipment. I still enjoy building roads, airstrips and trails. I am still a Republican. However, like the late Sen. Ted Stevens, I believe the Pebble mine prospect is unlike anything Alaska has ever seen or can even imagine.

Bristol Bay is unique in the world and is the last great stronghold for a complete red salmon ecosystem. Visually, the country speaks so well for itself, words hardly do it justice. Perhaps more importantly, the industries supported by Bristol Bay provide thousands of Alaskans good-paying, reliable jobs.

The type of ore body at Pebble is extremely dangerous. If the prospect were named for what it's primarily made of, we'd be calling it a sulfur mine with a little copper, gold and molybdenum. Once that ore is ground to powder, it becomes our responsibility to guard the tailings from the combination of air and water that generates sulfuric acid. It becomes Alaska's liability for endless generations.

That is why I join the overwhelming majority of those from Southwest Alaska in opposing development of the Pebble deposit. Mining has an important place in this state, but the margin for error in Bristol Bay is much narrower than in other areas. The size, type and location of the deposit are what make Pebble so problematic.

The largest open pit mine in the United States is Bingham Canyon Mine in Utah, located in a dry climate close to Salt Lake City. It has polluted 72 square miles of the aquifers beneath it and is only a third of the size of the ore body that Pebble Limited Partnership has told shareholders is mineable, which is 30 times the size of the largest mine in Alaska.

The cost of the 100-mile access route around the east end of Lake Iliamna to a new deepwater port on Cook Inlet would be very high. Infrastructure development will require roads, pipelines, power generation and concentrate transportation. Any mine development plan would have to be massive in scale to be profitable. There is no feasible small development alternative.

The discussion moving into the national spotlight will be bigger than the ANWR debate. The values are high, and until there is finality there will be collateral damage. From fish buyers to mine investors, Pebble is a concern. The sad thing for many of us who see both sides of this argument is not only that the Pebble development would probably cause irreversible loss to the last, best wild salmon fishery on Earth, but that the reaction of the national conscience if that were to occur would likely destroy reasonable mining in Alaska for a century. Whether we appreciate or resent being a place of national conscience doesn't change that it is a matter of fact.

Rick Halford, former state Senate president and 24-year member of the Alaska Legislature, now lives with his family in Chugiak and Aleknagik. Halford spoke in Fairbanks last week at a screening of

Read more: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner - Pebble Mine is far too risky Size place and sulfur make the mining unwise